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faiths which finds its chief support among the male population. Gradually by interpretation and custom, "adet," the rigid rules of the Koran are being modified to suit modern conditions, and the forms still observed have a meaning for the Turk for which many parts of our own rituals have no counterpart. The faith is a faith that makes faithful. Its teachings of cleanliness, honor, and duty are powerful influences in keeping before the people standards that make for a strong national life.

CHESTER LLOYD JONES.

University of Wisconsin.

Fisher, Herbert A. L. *Political Unions.* Pp. 31. Price, 35 cents. New York: Oxford University Press, 1911.

De Fronsac, Viscount. *Liberalism and Wreck of Empire.* Pp. 91. Price, 50 cents. New York: Neale Publishing Company, 1911.

These pamphlets both devote some space to political unions within the British Empire. Beyond that they have nothing in common.

The first is the Creighton lecture delivered in the University of London. Mr. Fisher in his usual brilliant style gives a descriptive survey of political unions. Beginning with an account of the circumstances attending the formation of the South African Union, he proceeds to a consideration of the causes of the success or failure of various unions, and concludes with observations on the organization and working of some of the most important. As his exposition necessarily includes many generalizations, occasionally a statement appears that is somewhat too sweeping. It may be doubted if it is yet quite true in the United States that "if the work [of framing the constitution] had to be done over again now, it is improbable that any American statesman or thinker would construct an executive so independent of the legislature, or a legislature so independent of the executive, or would assign to the several states of the Union so large a measure of autonomy as that which they still enjoy" (p. 21). But such instances are comparatively few. The general result is both stimulating and suggestive.

The second pamphlet is a diatribe against liberalism in general and the imperial policy of the English Liberal party in particular. The nature of the contents is sufficiently indicated by the writer's conclusion, that the only remedy for the evils produced by popular government in England is an armed invasion led preferably by the German Emperor, who, because of his theory of divine right, would presumably deprive parliament of its usurped executive authority. The discussion is acrimonious, and the views expressed are so warped by prejudice as to be fantastic. Otherwise it is not distinguished from the great mass of partisan literature evoked by the recent constitutional crisis in England.

W. E. LUNT.

Bowdoin College.

Forbush, W. B. *The Coming Generation.* Pp. xix, 402. Price, \$1.50. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1912.

The author makes the first virile attempt to popularize the concept of posteritism. To him the coming generation is a real group of individuals who, trained in

the activities of the present, will shape the world of the future. His book he describes as "the first endeavor to furnish in a single volume, a short, readable account of all the forces that are working for the betterment of American young people" (p. vii).

Starting with the home as the fundamental social institution, he asks the pertinent question, "why is it that, since parenthood is the business at which most of us spend three-fourths of our time, the state should allow it to be taught only to spinster school teachers?" Obviously such a situation is intolerable. The knowledge of the rights and duties of parenthood, of eugenics and of the first principles of education is essential to every one in a democracy. Then too, there is another side to the problem. It is not enough that children should be trained for parenthood, they must likewise be prepared for citizenship, and "inspired to hand down the torch, to endeavor to perpetuate civilization, to make the world better for their children and their children better for the world. This question is the latest thing in education and in religion" (p. 376).

The author's viewpoint is keen and progressive. His authorities are sound, yet his book fails in the purpose set forth in his preface because he has not successfully correlated the factors involved in the shaping of the coming generation.

SCOTT NEARING.

University of Pennsylvania.

Gell, W. E. *Eighteen Capitals of China.* Pp. xx, 429. Price, \$5.00. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1911.

History to be interesting, we have been told, should read like a romance. This book meets the condition. In describing the Eighteen Capitals of China, the author has written the history of the Chinese Empire with all the charm and grace of a romance. The forces that have molded and shaped the politics, literature, arts, religions and the social institutions are forcefully and interestingly discussed. The keen diplomatic traits of the Chinese officials are clearly demonstrated. The vices and the virtues of the people are shown. Besides containing a wealth of historical data, the book abounds with Chinese folk-lore, excerpts of literature, and poetry. At the top of almost every other page is a Chinese maxim in Chinese and English. This collection adds greatly to the already high value of the book. In the light of the present situation in China one of these maxims is significant, "Even a tile will turn some day." The real causes that have changed affairs in China are described in this book. The Old and the New China are strikingly contrasted. The heroic and noble works of the medical missionaries and the Chinese will stimulate to greater deeds all humanitarians. The book is beautifully illustrated. It contains more than one hundred and thirty photo cuts. So many of the written characters have been explained that we suggest to all contemplating the taking up of the Chinese language as a study that they first read this book. It will help them "to breathe the atmosphere."

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